

Memorial Hill

by Nola Boyden Boren

The Wallsburg Ward has always celebrated the 4th and 24th of July. They had a program in the morning. Everyone in the ward and those who visited would bring their blankets and lunch. The families would gather together, some on the front lawn and some on the west.

Bishop George A. Gardener and George Batty were presiding over the celebration. My father, James William Boyden, was president of the amusement.

After the program we would gather out on the lawn where Parcells had a booth, the amusement committee would have a booth and Fords had their store close by.

The greased pole and pigs were very exciting, the childrens races and sack races were enjoyed. The car and man or man and horse races and a parade was very much enjoyed.

At 2 p.m. Mrs. Alice Graham would play the piano while the children gathered there and learned to dance.

At night the adults would hold their dance. People from all over came to join with us. The place would be packed. We danced in the old church house.

This celebration, this 24th of July, was a very sad and special day. My Uncles, George and Dan Lockhart took pictures. It was their last celebration with us. They said goodbys and the next day left for Virginia and enlisted in the First World War. They were killed in action in France. The report was that when Dan was shot, George jumped in to save his brother, but George, in trying to save his brother, was killed also.

Grandmother Lockhart went to France with the Gold Star mothers but only found one grave.

In the fall of 1928, Grandfather and Grandmother unveiled the monument on the Memorial Hill in Midway, Utah. They said they had a large crowd and there wasn't a dry eye. They named the hill the Lockhart Memorial because they were the only two brothers in the county killed in the war.

The plaque with the names were stolen, the hill was run down, and boys shot holes in it.

One day Scott and Kim Leortscher went up on the Memorial Hill, climbed the 32 foot pole and put a three by five flag on the pole. It was great, it was beautiful, even if it was small!

I watched them put it there. They looked like a small cat climbing the pole.

I put a piece in the wave, told the story about my Grandparents and asked if someone would donate a large one to the boys. No-one answered.

Lawrence B. Burton of the House of Representatives heard about it through his secretary, a sister to Sister Fugate of Midway, who had sent the wave to her sister.

I received a phone call on the 16 of September 1969 from Representative Burton telling me I would receive the flag that flew over the Capitol Building the day the astronauts were honored for being the first to walk on the moon.



I ask around for help but no-one wanted to be bothered, so I prepared a program, and on September 26, 1969 , Captain Zimmerman of the Lockhart regiment came. Myself, Mrs. Alvin Probst and a few of the Wasatch band, Ernest Kuhni and my two Aunts, sisters of Dan and George, were there. George Remund sang God Bless America. When the flag was raised, the band played The Star Spangled Banner. There wasn't a dry eye. I presented the flag to the boys and they still have it.

The names of all those who served in the Services were on the plaques that were stolen from the Memorial Hill.

Daniel Ballstead, Dr. Raymond Green and Alvah Kohler are a few who have worked long hard and faithfully to beautify the hill.

Don't destroy the hill! Help make it a beautiful monument to those who have given their lives to make yours better. You never know, some day your name may be up there.

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